

**Schedule of Meeting Times:**

WKAC 1080 AM Sunday 7:30 AM  
 Study Sunday 10:00 AM  
 Worship Sunday Morn 11:00 AM  
 Worship Sunday Eve 5:00 PM  
*Singing every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday evening*  
 Study Wednesday 7:00 PM

**Preacher / bulletin editor:**

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“Man shall not live  
 by bread alone, but  
 by every word that  
 proceeds from the  
 mouth of God,”

—Matthew 4:4

**Servants during May:**

**Songleader:** Larry (3), Dwight (10),  
 Stanley (17), Larry (24), Dwight (31)

**Reading:** Larry

**Announcements:** Marty

**Table:** Stanley, Mary, Mike

**Wednesday Lesson:** Kris (6), Larry (13),  
 Stanley (20), Kris (27)

**Lawn Mowing** (week starting, unless  
 contracted out): Larry (3), Marty (10),  
 Kris (17), Stanley (24), Larry (31)

**Area Meetings:**

**Hays Mill church of Christ**

21705 Hays Mill Road

Elkmont, AL 35620

# The Bible . Examiner

“Examine everything carefully...” 1 Thessalonians 5:21 NASB

Volume 8

May 3, 2026

Number 42

## What to Give the Spiritually Hungry

By Steve Klein

Charles Spurgeon used to tell the story that, during the reign of Nero, there was a great shortage of food in Rome. There was plenty of food in Alexandria, and ships laden with grain often came from that city. But Nero had ordered the ships to bring back only sand to be used in the arena. When hungry people gathered at the dock to await the shipment, they were miserably disappointed. People needed wheat, not sand.

Then one of the merchants spoke to the shipmaster and said, “Take thou good heed that thou bring nothing back with thee from Alexandria but wheat; and whereas aforetime thou brought in the vessel a measure or two of sand, bring thou not so much as would lie upon a penny this time. Bring thou nothing else, I say, but wheat, for these people

are dying, and now we must keep our vessels for this one business of bringing food to them.”

In the religious world of today, sand is being shipped by the boatload to the spiritually hungry. The sand comes in many forms. Churches offer such things as recreation programs, fellowship meals, entertainment events, political forums, day care centers and organized observances of man-made holidays. Apparently the feeling is that people who are lost and dying in sin can somehow be saved by softball and soccer, pot roast and potato salad, Christmas candy and Easter eggs. Jesus said, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God,” Mt 4:4.


Nowadays, most people think it odd when they hear of a church that

doesn't offer sand. "Faith-based initiatives" have gained a lot of acceptance and praise in recent years; but the truth is that the phrase "faith-based initiative" is nothing more than political code for churches offering the world every kind of aid except the one thing that could truly make an eternal difference in people's lives—God's word. Churches, politicians and the nation at large have failed to understand both the mission of the church and the needs of the lost. In the New Testament, the church at Thessalonica understood both, and they were commended for it. "For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place," 1 Thess 1:8.

We need to make sure that the church is dedicated to no business other than carrying the only food that starving people need—the bread of life, the gospel of Jesus Christ. No

sand!

At this point, some of us might be feeling smugly self-righteous. We might be tempted to boast that the church that we are a part of would never offer sand to the spiritually hungry. "We have no recreation programs or carnal community outreaches!" Sadly, some who would make such a boast have no spiritual community outreach either! While they are not giving the hungry what they do not need, they are also failing to give them what they do need. There is little or no attempt being made to take the bread of life to the starving.

Our mission is not merely to prevent sand from being taken to the hungry, it is to take bread. Let us load the ships and set sail! Ask a neighbor to study the Bible with you. Invite friends to our gospel meetings. Be on the lookout for opportunities to share God's word day by day. 

# Suggestions for a Dull Sermon

By Doy Moyer

I came across a book that gives "101 Things to Do During a Dull Sermon." While it may seem a bit flippant, it makes you think. A preacher can notice quite a few things going on, and can himself become distracted when he knows people aren't paying attention. I sometimes comment that I can recognize some by the shape of their nostrils (think about it). That said, here are a few of the "suggestions":

**Make an "Ananias and Sapphira List."** With due consideration for the net worth of each member and their motives for giving, list the names of the "Ten Most Likely To Be Struck Dead During the Offering."

**Word Power:** It pays to increase your word power. Whenever you hear a word you are unfamiliar with during the sermon, write it down and guess at a definition (that's how some theologians arrive at their definitions,

anyway.) Check your guesses with a dictionary, Bible Dictionary, theological encyclopedia or ask your neighbor.

**Hymn Memorization:** Take advantage of this lull in your interest to learn those troublesome second and third verses of hymns—you know, the words you mumble while trying to keep up with the tempo. A Bible dictionary may help you make some sense of the lyrics.

**Pew Warming:** By experimentation, try to determine how many comfortable pew sitting positions you can discover. You will kill a lot of time before you realize there ARE NO comfortable pew sitting positions.

**Play-by-Play:** If you are seated near the rear of the auditorium, away from people, quietly "broadcast" the sermon (or the entire service) using the jargon of a sports announcer.

**Yawn:** see if a yawn really is contagious.

**Back Row:** Join the young people on the back pew. Ask if you can join with them in watching YouTube videos.

**Find the oldest church's bulletin in your Bible:** This will tell you how long it's been since you last really read your Bible.


## Remember in Prayer

**Alice** has had some skin issues that are still in the process of being tested. **Faye's nephew, Tommy**, died last Thursday; but we greatly appreciate your prayers on his behalf, as well as

**Ballgame Worry:** If your favorite team is playing, worry about how much of the game you're missing.

**List ways to embarrass visitors:** It will be difficult to think of things that churches haven't already done, but try. (Here are some suggestions to get the creative juices going: have the visitor list all the books of the Bible by memory; ask the visitor why he/she hasn't been coming to church...)

I chuckle at some of these, if nothing else because they are too close to what really happens; but then a more serious thought crosses my mind. Have we grown so tired of gospel preaching that we cannot concentrate for a few moments to meditate and think seriously about God's word? While preachers should try to make their lessons interesting, it is not up to the preacher to keep us entertained and "awake." When we take delight in something, we find ways to keep our own interest level up.

But here is a serious suggestion: if you really are having trouble following a preacher, then you can, at least, read your Bible and get something out of it. If you can't do that, there are more serious problems at the heart of the matter. 

for her sister, **Marie**. Please continue to pray for **Betty; Carolyn; Hazel; Marie** and **Billy**; as well as **John, Sylvia**, and **Paige Pollard**.